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COUNTY LAW REQUIRES THAT SOME BUSINESSES HAVE BABY DIAPER CHANGING ACCOMMODATIONS

If you plan to take an infant or small child shopping with you this holiday season, you should not have to worry about diaper-changing facilities. County law requires some businesses to have their restrooms equipped with diaper-changing stations. No longer should you have to change the child's diaper on the restroom floor of a shopping center or restaurant, because there is no other place to do it.

Miami-Dade County Ordinance 98-184 requires certain business establishments to equip men's and women's restrooms, or unisex restrooms, with baby diaper-changing accommodations.

The types of businesses which must comply with this requirement include: theaters and movie-houses, sports arenas and complexes, stadiums, libraries, passenger terminals, permanent amusement park structures, shopping centers larger than 25,000 square feet, retail stores larger than 5,000 square feet, restaurants that seat at least 50 patrons and tourist attractions.

The law does not require business places that were occupied prior to February 1999 to change their restrooms to include a baby changing area, but if the establishment is new, or undergoes a renovation, one has to be added.

The law permits the accommodation to be a specially designed station, a table, counter top or other suitable surface.

The Miami-Dade County Consumer Services Department will investigate consumer complaints regarding the availability of baby diaper changing accommodations. Consumers who believe they have visited a facility that is required to have the accommodation, but doesn't have one, should contact the Miami-Dade Consumer Hotline at (305) 375-3677. Help is just a phone call away.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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The Miami Dade Consumer Services Department is an agency of Miami-Dade County government that protects consumers through complaint mediation, business regulation, and consumer education. The Department operates the Consumer Hotline (305) 375-3677, a central telephone number for consumer complaints and information.